



House Bill No. 6675

Public Act No. 05-13

**AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO EDUCATION
GRANT STATUTES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 10-76f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

(h) "Net cost of special education" means the result obtained by subtracting from the expenditures made by a claimant board for special education personnel, equipment, materials, tuition, transportation, rent and consultant services, (1) the total amount of any funds from other state or federal grants, private grants or special education tuition received by [it] the board in such year and used to implement special education programs approved pursuant to said sections, (2) the total amount of [the costs of special education for which] any funds from Medicaid payments [are] received by [it] the board in such year pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-76d, and (3) expenditures for special education provided to children requiring [it] special education who are described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a.

Sec. 2. Subdivisions (15) and (16) of section 10-262f of the general

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statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(15) "Mastery percentage" of a town for any examination year means, using the mastery test data of record for the examination year, the number obtained by dividing (A) the total number of valid tests with scores below the state-wide standard for remedial assistance as determined by the Department of Education in each subject of the examinations pursuant to [subsections (a) and (b)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-14n taken by resident students, by (B) the total number of such valid tests taken by such students.

(16) "Mastery test data of record" for any examination year means the data of record on the April thirtieth subsequent to the administration of the examinations pursuant to [subsections (a) and (b)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-14n, except that [for the examination years prior to July 1, 1988, the date of the data of record shall be April 30, 1988, and provided beginning with the administration of such examinations during the 1988-1989 school year, and for each such administration thereafter,] school districts may, not later than the March first following the administration of an examination, file a request with the Department of Education for an adjustment of the mastery test data from such examination.

Sec. 3. Subdivision (31) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(31) "Mastery goal improvement count" means the product of (A) the difference between the percentage of state-wide mastery examination scores, pursuant to [subsections (a) and (b)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-14n, at or above the mastery goal level for the most recently completed school year and the percentage of such scores for the prior school year and (B) the resident

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students of the town, or zero, whichever is greater.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-262l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Each local and regional board of education, within available appropriations, shall be eligible to receive a state grant of funds as a reward for demonstrating improvement in district-wide student achievement on the state-wide mastery examinations under [subsections (a) and (b)] subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-14n. Each local and regional board of education shall receive a proportional share of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section based upon the improvement in its mastery goal improvement count, as defined in subdivision (31) of section 10-262f, as amended by this act. The minimum grant for each eligible town shall be five hundred dollars. Each local and regional board of education shall expend grant funds pursuant to this section on behalf of its schools in a manner consistent with each school's relative contribution to the level of mastery goal achievement within the district.

Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school or a former priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, [or] (B) in a town ranked one to twenty-eight when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, or (C) in a

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town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in said subdivision (2). A town in which [such] a priority school is located, [or] a regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred seven thousand dollars per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one hundred seven thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such district. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of accredited school readiness programs.

(2) (A) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, [2004] 2005, if a town received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection [for a priority school] and is no longer eligible to receive such a grant, [for such school,] the town may receive a phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal year such town received its final grant [for such school] pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

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(B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final [priority school grant for such school] grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant amount such town received [for such school] for the town or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final [priority school grant for such school] grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received [for such school] for the town or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final [priority school grant for such school] grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received [for such school] for the town or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Approved May 4, 2005